Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May I know if there is any chance of this question being satisfactorily settled at an early date?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The matter has been referred to the Harbour Department for preparing an estimate for constructing a canal. Government will pass orders when the estimates are received.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The idea is to get the canal cut by the big drudger?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Venduruthi Canal.

20. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what action has the Government taken to redeem the promise made inside this House and in the reply to the Municipal Address received by the Diwan during his last visit to the Mattancheri Municipality to give a safe channel for the ferry boats to pass up and down between Mattancheri and Ernakulam;

(2) is the Government not aware of the fact that the time-table sanctioned by the Government for the ferry is not kept up on account of the circuitous route that the boats have to take owing to the Harbour works in the backwater, and what steps have been taken by Government for easing the inconveniences and loss of time that the travelling public is put to now;

(3) is the Government aware of the public statement made by the Diwan on the 25th August 1930 at Mattancheri, that orders have been passed and the Chief Engineer has been directed to take steps to provide a channel;

(4) is any estimate made for the purpose and if so what is the cost;

(5) what are the proposed works to be done to provide this channel;

(6) what survey has been made, who is the officer entrusted with the work; if nothing has been done, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) The matter is being taken up with the Harbour Department. Their estimates for the work are awaited.

(2) The inconveniences to people mentioned therein have now been greatly reduced as the dredger "Lord Willingdon" has ceased its work for the time being in the Turning Basin. The ferry boats need not now take the circuitous route they

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were taking for the last few months.

(3) Yes.

(4), (5) and (6) Please vide answer to sub-section (1).

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, what is the difficulty in getting it done by the Government itself without referring to the Harbour authorities ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The work appears to be too large to be attended by the Government with the machinery at their disposal.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know who investigated the matter to come to that conclusion ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Chief Engineer.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Any reports available upon the data upon which that idea was arrived at ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The approximate quantity of the earth to be removed for the construction of the canal has been arrived at. It was found that with the drudger at our disposal it was not possible to do it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the depth and what is the length to be cut ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Ten feet and six thousand feet.

Dredging of the canal between Venduruthi and the Reclamation area.

21. **Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council.—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps in connection with the dredging of a canal between Venduruthi and the Reclamation area (as promised by the Diwan even during the last sitting of the Council) with a a view to shorten the route that the ferry boats plying between Ernakulam and Cochin have now to take on account of the progress of the Harbour works ;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, how far the work has progressed ;

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, the reason for the delay;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take immediate steps to relieve the public of the great inconvenience caused to them for want of such a canal ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a), (b), (c) and (d). The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 19.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—With reference to the calling of estimates, were any estimates called for from the Harbour ? Did they submit any estimate before this ?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Only a rough cost report.

Teak Plantation.

22. **Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what the working of the Teak Plantation cost the Government last year;

(b) how many teak saplings there were in the said plantations on 1st Chingam 1106 of from one year's to ten years' growth;

(c) how many years hence teak saplings of one year's growth at present will attain their full growth and be mature for felling?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(a) Rs. 14,567—11—5.

(b) It is impracticable to collect the particulars in a short time.

(c) More or less 150 years hence.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—May I know whether registers are maintained in the Forest Office showing the age of teak saplings planted from year to year?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—Are returns submitted to the Huzur Office quarterly, half-yearly or yearly?

Mr K. Ramunni Menon.—No returns.

Adoor Leper Asylum.

23. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the objections raised on the floor of this House to the handing over of the management of the Asylum to a proselytising religious body such as the Salvation Army;

(2) will the Government be pleased to state what facts incapacitate them from managing the Asylum themselves;

(3) will the Government be pleased to state the total cost of this Asylum;

(4) what are the difficulties in the way of managing it on non-sectarian or non-religious lines and in the same manner as other hospitals are managed in the State?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Government have considered all the aspects of the question.

(2) It is not a question of incapacity of Government; but the element of self-sacrifice which is so essential for the management of a Leper Asylum and which will be lacking under Government management.

(3) Rs. 1,00,517—4—9.

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